File Copy

JANUARY 1985

News and Notes from the
Fellowship Offices

# Keeping in Touch

5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Ste. 304, Los Angeles, CA 90020-9990 (213) 464-5100

## PRAISES

Thank God for MCC Long Beach - always on time and sometimes early with their Tithe checks. They were early in October, and we neglected to put them on the TOP 20 List in October. Apologies! Their Tithe amount for September was $1000.00. Thanks also to their pastor Rev. Dusty Pruitt and Assistant Pastor, Rev. Bjorn Marcusses!

The following churches let us know that they were joining with Rev. Jim Norwood and Agape MCC, Ft. Worth TX, in a Thanksgiving Vigil and Fast on behalf of the AIDS crisis. Below are a few reports:

"God's message to you is certainly a powerful one, and I will certainly keep the cure for AIDS in my prayer."
Rev. Chuck Larsen, MCC Resurrection
Houston, TX

"May each of our prayers be offered believing in the healing power and love of God."
Rev. Larry Whitesell, Diabblo Valley MCC

"God is for us, and now is the time!"
Rev. William Coulter, MCC Tampa

"I am planning to engage in this Fast personally and I am encouraging others to do so."
Rev. Roy Birchard

"...the entire Long Beach congregation will be called upon...to join the worldwide UFMCC during this period of Fasting and Prayer."
Dr. E. D. Lister, MCC Long Beach

"We too truly believe, that is we are faithful and claim the healing power of God, that we will see a cure for AIDS."
Rev. Phil Eberle, Rev. Richard Matera,
Trinity MCC, New York

"We shall indeed join with you in Spirit and pray our healing Lord Jesus eliminate this disease, either by direct intervention or by inspiration of the medical authorities to discover a cure..."
Rev. Stan Harris, MCC Charleston, SC

"'If you remain in me, and my word in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it'"
Rev. Ron Bergeron, Eastern Canadian District,
MCC Ottawa

"Our prayers will not only be for AIDS, but for peace, justice, food and health!"
Rev. Jennie Boyd Bull, MCC Baltimore

"To GOD be the glory"
Rev. Frank Scott, MCC Ventura

*****************************

MCC Spokane has just voted unanimously to purchase a former Episcopal Church!

King of Peace MCC, in St. Petersburg, FL is purchasing a former Elks Club for about $175,000.

Rev. Elder Jean White reports that we have received an inquiry for materials and affiliation from a group in Elba, Greece!

MCC Jacksonville was the victim of another fire, early in the morning of December 16th, 1984. This is their second fire (by arson) within one year. This time, according to pastor Mike Piazza, the damage was a lot less, because they had installed fire retardant carpeting and the fire was started in the social hall, not the sanctuary. No structural damage occurred. The congregation (which is growing, and now known as St. Luke's MCC), pitched in and re-painted the inside of the building that day! Mike says he thinks the church will "look like new" by Christmas.

For an excellent Lenten Booklet for 1985, write for "Liberation and Unity" A GUIDE FOR MEDITATION AND ACTION, sponsored by the Consultation of on Church Union, the AME, AME Zion and CME Churches. They are available from The Consultation on Church Union, 228 Alexander St. Princeton, New Jersey 08540.

MCC San Diego continues to experience harassment and verbal abuse each Sunday morning from a group of fundamentalist Christians, who are terrorizing other "liberally" identified organizations in the city. The pastor (Rev. David Fairell) and congregation has asked for our special prayers as they deal with the stress of these attacks.

REMINDER: Monthly statistical (Church) Reports are to be sent to the Fellowship Offices. If you print on the face of the envelope "MONTHLY REPORT", this would be helpful for immediate processing. THESE FORMS ARE PRINTED IN TRIPLICATE ONLY NOW, THE FELLOWSHIP GETS ONLY ONE COPY, YOUR DISTRICT GETS ONE, AND ONE IS FOR YOUR RECORDS.

CHURCH MANAGEMENT, INC. P.O. Box 1625, Austin Texas 78767, has two excellent books available, TAX PLANNING FOR CLERGY ($2.95) and MAKING IT ON A PASTOR'S SALARY ($3.95).

PLEASE PUBLISH THIS NEWS RELEASE FROM THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE. IT IS URGENT THAT ALL CUBANS WHO CAME TO THE U.S. DURING THE 1980 MARIELD BOATLIFT HAVE THIS INFORMATION:

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is putting into effect a program to grant permanent resident status to eligible Cubans who entered the U.S. during the 1980 Mariel boatlift, Alan C. Nelson, INS Commissioner, announced today. Permanent resident status for the Cubans is authorized under legislation known as the Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966. The legislation applies only to Cuban nationals and their spouses and children and does not benefit individuals from any other country.

In the first step of the program, which will be conducted during December, 1984, INS will ask all Cubans who entered the U.S. during the April 15 to October 10, 1980 boatlift and who are not yet U.S. permanent residents or citizens to register with the Service through local participating voluntary agencies. The registration period will begin on December 3, 1984 and continue to December 31, 1984. Those who register during that time period will be the first scheduled for adjustment interviews. There will be no preference given to those who register early in December over those who register later in the month. (This note was only received December 20th, registrations will continue.)

In the second step, which will begin after April 1, 1985, INS will conduct interviews and issue decisions regarding resident status. Permanent resident status confers most of the privileges of U.S. citizenship and is required before citizenship can be attained.

The registration will provide INS with the current address of those expected to apply for resident status so that they may be contacted for interviews. The Service will use the information obtained from this registration to update computer files, to estimate the workload and to transfer Service records to appropriate offices. There will be no penalties for those who fail to register. However, those who do not will be interviewed for resident status after those who do register.

INS said applicants should not contact its offices. Beginning in March 1985 the Service will begin contacting persons for interviews.

INS estimates that up to 100,000 Cubans will register. Some of the 125,000 Cubans who came during the boatlift have already obtained resident status through close relatives in the United States. Cubans presently held in Service detention because of their criminal or mental records will not be covered by this program. The government will continue to negotiate with the government of Cuba to press for the repatriation of these persons.

Forms for the December registration will be available about November 30, 1984, from local voluntary agencies who agree to participate with the Service in this program. The following national voluntary organizations have said they will encourage their local affiliates to participate: American Council for Nationalities Service, Church World Service, Cuban-American National Foundation, International Rescue Committee, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, United States Catholic Conference Migration and Refugee Service and World Relief.

Registration forms will not generally be available at INS offices. There is no fee for the submission of the Registration form.

Rev. Joseph Gilbert, MCC Philadelphia reports that the Mayor's Commission on Sexual Minorities has been authorized to advertise the following:

> "Temporary position of about six months. Will coordinate and execute programs of the City Commission on Sexual Minorities. Must be a well-organized self-starter able to deal on a professional level and perform clerical support tasks. Experience working with both Lesbian women and Gay men is essential. May lead to permanent appointment.
>
> "Send detailed resume with cover letter indicating background so that it <u>will</u> be received January 14 at: Mayor's Commission on Sexual Minorities
> Search Committee
> Room 143
> City Hall
> Philadelphia, PA 19107"

## FROM WORLD CHURCH EXTENSION

NEXT MONTH IS WORLD CHURCH EXTENSION SUNDAY -- LOOK FOR MATERIALS SOON!

A letter from Rev. Sylvanus Maduka:

"...we wish to express our interest on the Christian Social Action Epiphany program...

"We do not want Nigeria to be left out on all the activities of the Fellowship, for we are a part...Arrangement in on the way to have a central office in Okigwe--just a standard office with telephone link as to be reached in the daytime. We hope this office will help in the Fellowship's distribution of material here. In 1985, we are hoping to raise money to obtain a piece of land in Okigwe metropolis for the church building and offices and for a community recreation center, ...A small Bible school may also be set up for training of our pastors... My wife is sick, please pray for her...I wrote to Freda Smith about my interest in attending the next General Conference...Keep us in your prayers."

From Rev. Bob Jones of Liverpool, England:

"(Two) months ago, People's express brought me from New York to London...(These) months have been full of excitement and adjustments...The folks here are patient with my Americanisms and will repeat words which I simply can't understand... Liverpool is a great place to be... It is a clean city. Unfortunately the lack of industry means many unemployed, the dock areas are almost deserted. Jobs and job training are directed to the very young. This means one can be over the hill and unemployable in the late 30's and 40's.
...Because the economy is so bad and pay scales so low, even small change is much more important.

"MCC Liverpool is made up of survivors. They have gone the last 18 months without a formal pastor. Everyone has taken turn preaching an conducting workshop. The Committee has squeezed every pence and have been able to stay out of debt. My hope as a pastor is to build on this excellent foundation...I am very happy here. The church loves me and seem ready to start building a major church. I promise to keep you informed. Greater Liverpool is made up of over a million people in many different communities and neighborhoods. As I travel around on the nifty buses...a realization comes to me, this is the City of God, these are God's people. The sophisticated south of the country thinks of Liverpudlyians as simple and a little backwards. But God is always using out-of-the-way people to do great works..."

CALENDAR 1985

We did not get enough orders in for the 1985 calendar to warrant the expense of printing it, however, we are going to print it in installments in Keeping In Touch. Enclosed are the months of January and February for your information!

NCC UPDATE

The National Council of Churches (USA) voted at their November meeting that UFMCC does not have to re-apply for membership, and that our membership remains in file during this period on continuing dialogue. The Council approved an excellent series of yearly consultations with members of the Governing Board and membership for UFMCC on the subjects of Human Sexuality, Biblical Interpretation and Christian Unity--we believe this is another important step in witnessing to what God is doing through UFMCC!

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

YES! I want to subscribe to JOURNEY!

( ) $16.80 for one year, USA, Canada and Mexico

( ) $20.80 for one year outside USA, Canada & Mexico

Name . . . . . .

Street Address . . . . . .

City . . . . . .

Zip/Postal Code . . . . . .

Country . . . . . .

Please make all checks/money orders payable to UFMCC on a US Bank in US funds only. Send to: Journey Subscriptions, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029

SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE

Get your personal copy or copies to give as gifts of Norman Pittenger's outstanding book, "Gay Lifestyles: A Christian Interpretation of Homosexuality and the Homosexual."

Hardcover . . . . . $5.25
Paperback . . . . . $2.50

Includes Shipping